

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB - VLTOMSETH:MFG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221269

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH THAILAND

1. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED BY DOD TO CLEAR A MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING CONCERNING A PROPOSED DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOD AND THE THAI MOD. THE PROPOSAL, WE UNDERSTAND, WAS INITIATED BY MACTHAI IN APRIL AS A POSSIBLE MEANS OF ENSURING CONTINUED CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN DOD AND MOD IN THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FIELD FOLLOWING THE ELIMINATION OF THE MILITARY R&D SECTION OF MACTHAI.

2. WE ARE INCLINED TO FAVOR SUCH AN EXCHANGE AGREEMENT SINCE IT COULD SERVE AS TANGIBLE EVIDENCE TO THE THAI PUBLIC THAT CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH US IN MUTUAL SECURITY MATTERS IS OF REAL BENEFIT TO THAILAND. WE ARE CIRCULATING COPIES OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT HERE. BEFORE GOING BACK TO DOD, HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING YOUR VIEWS ON THIS PROPOSAL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MACTHAI HAS A COPY OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH IT COULD PROVIDE TO YOU.

3. ASSUMING YOU AGREE THAT WE SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH THIS
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AGREEMENT, WE WILL WANT TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE MANNER IN

WHICH IT WILL BE NEGOTIATED. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN DOD AND THE MOD WOULD NOT BE UNIQUE (WE HAVE

A SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH KOREA), BUT SINCE THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PRESUMABLY TAKE PLACE IN BANGKOK, WE WILL WANT IT TO BE QUITE CLEAR THAT IT IS THE U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSION NEGOTIATING WITH THE RTG AND NOT JUST MACTHAI MAKING AN ARRANGEMENT WITH THE MOD. AT SOME POINT, THEREFORE, WE THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO INSTRUCT YOU TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS, RATHER THAN LEAVE THIS MATTER IN THE MILITARY CHANNEL WHERE IT HAS BEEN HERETOFORE. ONE MEANS OF SHIFTING THE ACTION FROM DOD TO US MIGHT BE FOR YOU, WITH MACTHAI'S CONCURRENCE, TO PROPOSE IN AN OPEN CHANNEL MESSAGE THE NEGOTIATION OF A DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE DRAFT MACTHAI HAS IN ITS POSSESSION. KISSINGER

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